

Message Text

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42

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ASMARA POUCH

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM POUCH

AMEMBASSY LONDON POUCH

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO POUCH

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI POUCH

AMEMBASSY PARIS POUCH

USCINCEUR POUCH

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TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIA CELEBRATES VICTORY DAY

REF: ASMARA 394

SUMMARY. THE 34TH ETHIOPIAN VICTORY DAY CELEBRATION IN ADDIS WENT OFF SMOOTHLY. SPEECHES EXORiated FASCIST ITALY AND THE OLD ORDER. IN HIS ADDRESS, PMAC CHAIRMAN REVIEWED THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DESCRIBED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT OBJECTIVES AS FIRST TO FORM PEASANT/WORKER ASSOCIATIONS; SECOND TO BUILD A MASS PARTY; AND, THIRD, TO ELECT A GOVERNMENT TO WHICH THE ARMED FORCES CAN HAND OVER POWER. IN THE FOREIGN POLICY ARENA, ETHIOPIA DESIRES PEACEFUL COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND DEMANDS RECIPROCITY FOR ITS RESPECT FOR THEIR UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. ETHIOPIA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AFRICAN
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LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND SPEAK FOR A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION

TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RETURN TO ADDIS OF ETHIOPIA'S VICTORIOUS FORCES FOLLOWING THE EXPULSION OF THEIR ITALIAN ENEMIES IN 1941 WAS CELEBRATED HERE ON APRIL 6 (VICE MAY5, CF REFTTEL) WITH COLORFUL CEREMONIES AND BIG PARADES. ADDIS CITIZENS WERE IN HOLIDAY MOOD AND THE DAY PASSED PLEASANTLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT.

2. MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS WERE SENT THE EPMG BY THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE USSR, MEXICO, THE GDR, RUMANIA, POLAND AND THE SUDAN UPON THE OCCASION. A SEPARATE MESSAGE WAS ALSO RECEIVED FROM THE SOVIET AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS.

3. THE SPEECHES PRONOUNCED ON THIS OCCASION PREDICTABLY EXCORIATED FASCIST ITALY FOR ITS AGGRESSION UPON ETHIOPIA. IN NEW THEME, HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA'S REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO CASTIGATE THE OLD ORDER IN GENERAL FOR FAILING TO PREPARE THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO RESIST THE LONG-PREPARED ITALIAN ASSAULT -- AND THE EMPEROR PERSONALLY FOR SEEKING SHELTER IN FOREIGN LANDS WHILE HIS BRAVE SOLDIERS WERE MASSACRED IN THE FIELD BY THE ITALIAN WAR MACHINE. HE WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF ENSLAVING THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE UPON HIS RETURN FROM ABROAD.

4. PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTI USED THE OCCASION TO REVIEW THE ETHIOPIAN POPULAR MOVEMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES. ON THE FORMER HE NOTED THAT VITAL RESOURCES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP; A RURAL LAND REFORM PROMULGATED; PROGRESSIVE ADMINISTRATORS ORIENTED AND ASSIGNED TO THE PROVINCES; A NATIONAL WORK CAMPAIGN, DESIGNED TO AWAKEN RURAL ETHIOPIA, PUT IN TRAIN; THE ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS EQUALITY OF ETHIOPIA'S PEOPLE ASSURED. THE GOVERNMENT, TEFERI BANTI SAID, NOW WISHES TO CONCENTRATE ON THREE OBJECTIVES: FIRST, TO FORM ASSOCIATIONS AND COOPERATIVES OF PEASANTS AND WORKERS TO ENABLE THE PEOPLE TO PROTECT THE FRUITS OF THEIR REVOLUTION AGAINST REACTION. SECOND, TO FORM A MASS-ORIENTED POLITICAL ORGANIZATION TO MAINTAIN, INTENSIFY AND GUIDE THE PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE TO ATTAIN THE AIMS OF A SOCIALIST REVOLUTION. THIRD, FOLLOWING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE IN LINE WITH THE AIMS OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT, "TO ELECT A GOVERNMENT WHICH REFLECTS THEIR HOPES AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASPIRATIONS," WHEREUPON, TEFERI BANTI SAID, "THE ARMED FORCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT, WILL GO BACK TO THEIR BARRACKS."

5. IN A BRIEF ALLUSION TO FOREIGN POLICY AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH, TEFERI BANTI STATED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE SEEK TO PROMOTE THEIR POPULAR MOVEMENT STEP BY STEP AND DESIRE PEACEFUL COOPERATION ON THE BASIS OF EQUILITY WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA

WOULD RESPECT THE UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF OTHER STATES. IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT INTERFERE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT WOULD DEMAND RECIPROCITY. ETHIOPIA WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AS THEY STRIVE TOWARDS SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTEXT, ETHIOPIA WOULD CONTINUE TO SPEAK FOR A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION.

6. COMMENT: FULL TEXT OF THIS SPEECH WILL BE POUCHED. IT IS NOTEWORTHY BECAUSE IT SETS FORTH THE EPMG'S CURRENT THINKING ON ITS PRIORITIES IN THE DOMESTIC CONTEXT AND BECAUSE IT CONTAINS THE FIRST WIDELY PUBLICIZED STATEMENT OF PMAC'S WILLINGNESS EVENTUALLY TO HAND OVER POWER -- WHATEVER THAT MAY MEAN -- TO AN ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. THE STRIDENCY WITH WHICH FASCIST ITALY'S AGGRESSION UPON ETHIOPIA WAS EXCORIATED IN THE SPEECHES, THE MEDIA AND THE PARADE FLOATS CONTRASTED SIGNIFICANTLY WITH THE OBSERVATION OF THIS ANNIVERSARY UNDER THE OLD ORDER, IN WHICH ATTACKS UPON ITALY WERE GENERALLY DOWNPLAYED. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE HEAT WAS TURNED UP INTENTIONALLY, PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT'S AMBIVALENT POSTURE ON RECENT EVENTS IN ERITREA AND THE RESULTING STRESSES WHICH CURRENTLY EXIST BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND ITALY. CERTAINLY, THE ATTACKS UPON ITALY WERE SUCH THAT THEY WOULD HAVE AFFORDED ITALY'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE OFFICIAL TRIBUNE AMPLE REASON TO LEAVE THE CEREMONIES HAD THEY BEEN SO MINDED. AS FOR THE EMPEROR AND HIS REGIME -- HERE, TOO, THE GLOVES WERE OFF. HIS PERSON, HIS MOTIVES AND THOSE OF HIS ASSOCIATES DURING AND AFTER THE ITALIAN INVASION/OCCUPATION WERE JUDGED AND CONDEMNED IN THE HARSHTEST POSSIBLE WAY.
HUMMEL

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